

up those processes of FDA reform, which we think is legislation whose time has arrived.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note that the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BLILEY], chairman of the Committee on Commerce, has appointed a fellow Pennsylvanian, Mr. GREENWOOD, to head up the FDA reform effort. With him working on this effort will in fact be the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BARTON], the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. KLUG], and the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BURR], in fact working not only on medical devices, but pharmaceuticals and foods as well.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell the Members from testimony in my town and my county seat in Norristown, PA, that we had just in June 1995 many witnesses, patients, doctors, hospitals, discussing the need for speeding up the approval process for FDA in drugs and medical devices. We had patients with ALS, with AIDS, with cancer, with epilepsy, to name a few.

In each of these cases, the patients have said that while they are waiting for a cure or they are waiting for a vaccine to help extend their lives, to improve the quality of those lives, to extend the years of those lives, they need to have the Congress, working with the White House, make sure we do what we can, working with the FDA, to make sure that we speed up the process.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that the main job of the Food and Drug Administration is to protect us, to look out to make sure that drugs are not only safe but they are efficacious, that they are effective, for what they were intended. I know in my travels in Montgomery County and in parts of Delaware Valley, PA, and in other parts of the country, we need to make sure that we work together in a teamwork fashion to make the kinds of innovations in FDA, working with the agency, to make sure that we can speed up the process, whether it is from a personnel point of view, allowing us to use outside companies for the testing, or working with international harmonization, whereby we allow some of the clinical trials and testings from other countries whose results we can verify as being accurate, we can apply that understanding and that research to speed up the process for the approval.

Mr. Speaker, we are a long way in this process already by the fact that many bills have been filed, and I was pleased to work with my colleagues to introduce the bills that I have thus far in Congress.

But beyond the health care benefits of living longer and living better, Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of my colleagues that there are many jobs now in the pharmaceutical, biotech, and FDA field for which we need to make sure we keep the process moving and to speed up the FDA reform, because, Mr. Speaker, if we do not speed up the process and we do not make the accurate and appropriate reforms, not only will the discoveries go

overseas about medical devices and drugs, but the jobs will go overseas as well. America has worked too hard, done too much right, and been too creative and been too smart in their approach to the discoveries of these important drugs and medical devices to let it slip through our fingers now.

By working together, the Congress and the White House, the private and the public sector, patients and hospitals, we can, in fact, have FDA reform achieved in this Congress, in this session, which will improve the quality of life for our constituents, and make sure we keep the jobs here as well, to improve America and to improve our communities.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today and the balance of the week, on account of medical reasons.

Mr. STOKES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today through Friday, March 29, on account of medical reasons.

Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today and the balance of the week, on account of official business.

Mr. WALKER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of personal reasons.

Mr. RADANOVICH (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today and the balance of the week, on account of a death in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BRYANT of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. UNDERWOOD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GORDON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TATE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GRAHAM, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCINNIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CHRISTENSEN, for 5 minutes, on March 20.

Mr. FORBES, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EHLERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHAYS, for 5 minutes each day, on March 19 and 20.

Mr. HOEKSTRA, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BRYANT of Texas) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida.

Ms. PELOSI.

Mr. STOKES.

Mr. ACKERMAN.

Mr. LANTOS, in two instances.

Mrs. KENNELLY.

Mr. FROST.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. TOWNS.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.

Mr. BERMAN.

Mr. PASTOR.

Mr. SABO.

Mr. WATERS.

Mr. DEUTSCH.

Mr. ORTIZ.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TATE) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mrs. VUCANOVICH.

Mr. MCINTOSH.

Mr. BAKER of California.

Mr. COMBEST.

Mr. PACKARD.

Mr. NETHERCUTT.

Mr. GOODLICH in two instances.

Mr. CHRISTENSEN.

Mr. GINGRICH.

Mr. GILMAN.

Mr. FAWELL.

Mr. WELDON of Florida.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.J. Res. 78. Joint resolution to grant the consent of the Congress to certain additional powers conferred upon the Bi-State Development Agency by the States of Missouri and Illinois.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1494. An act to provide an extension for fiscal year 1996 for certain programs administered by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee did on the following day present to the President, for his approval, a bill and joint resolution of the House of the following titles:

On March 15, 1996:

H.R. 2036. An act to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to make certain adjustments in the land disposal program to provide needed flexibility, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 163. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.